

South Carolina Department of Education
Division of Educator Quality and Leadership
Multi-Subject HOUSSE in Special Education

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to participate in a multi-subject “high, objective, uniform state standard of evaluation” (HOUSSE) in special education, the teacher must hold a valid South Carolina teaching certificate in one or more state-recognized areas of special education. The educator also must be teaching special education students in a South Carolina public school and have at least one year of prior teaching experience.

Evaluation Teams

Each evaluation team must be comprised of at least two members. All evaluation team members must be certified ADEPT evaluators and must have successfully completed training in South Carolina’s HOUSSE. At least one evaluator must be highly qualified in special education or in each of the required content areas. At least one evaluator must have a minimum of three years of successful teaching in special education or appropriate administrative experience.

Orientation

Prior to beginning the process, the teacher must receive a comprehensive orientation to HOUSSE. At a minimum, this orientation must include written and oral explanations of the five ADEPT Performance Standards (APSs) that apply to HOUSSE, the HOUSSE evaluation process, the criteria for successfully completing HOUSSE, and the intended use of the results.

Data Collection

Long-Range Plans (APSs 1 and 3). The students’ Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) may serve as the long-range plans for special education teachers. Each evaluator must review the IEPs in order to collect evidence for APSs 1 and 3. As a set, the IEPs must address each of the four required content areas (i.e., language arts, math, science, and social studies).

Observations (APSs 5, 6, and 7). Evaluators must conduct unannounced observations of instruction in all four required content areas (i.e., language arts, math, science, and social studies). The content areas may be taught individually (i.e., one subject per lesson) or combined into integrated lessons (i.e., up to, but no more than, two subjects per lesson). If each subject is taught individually, a total of four observations (i.e., one observer/observation per subject area) are required. If subjects are combined into integrated lessons (e.g., language arts and social studies; math and science), sufficient content must be included in each area. In instances where lessons are integrated, a total of two observations (i.e., one observer/observation per integrated lesson) are required.

Reflections (APS 7). Following each observation, the teacher must complete a reflection, in accordance with the HOUSSE guidelines.

Documentation, Evaluation Judgments, Conferences, and Timelines

The HOUSSE (i.e., ADEPT Content Area Evaluation) guidelines for documentation, evaluation judgments, conferences, and timelines apply, as written. When using the multi-subject model of HOUSSE, the process for all four required content areas can be completed in one semester.